

Message Text

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P 161821Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

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JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF US-ETHIOPIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP

1. INCREASING NUMBER OF UNRESOLVED SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUES BECOMING MATTER OF CONCERN WITHIN DEPARTMENT AND DOD. APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US AND ETHIOPIANS HOLD POTENTIAL FOR AGGRAVATING RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAVE BECOME HYPER-SENSITIVE TO FUNCTIONING OF ITS MILITARY COMPONENT. REVIEW OF PAST YEAR'S COMBINED CASH/CREDIT/GRANT PROGRAM REVEALS PATTERN OF INFLATED ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOLLOWED BY SUBSTANTIAL AND EXPEDITED US RESPONSE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR EVEN GREATER CONFIDENTIAL

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QUANTITIES WITHIN SAME OR SHORTER RESPONSE TIME. TRAINING

AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS ARE CONSISTENTLY EXCLUDED IN ETHIOPIAN RECKONING OF DESIRED DELIVERY SCHEDULES. IN RECENT MONTHS, ETHIOPIA HAS SOUGHT TO BLAME US FOR DELAYS OCCASIONED BY MALFUNCTIONING WITHIN EPMG DECISION APPARATUS. RECENT GAMBIT OF SUSPENDING F5E AND TPS-43D RADAR TRANSACTIONS PENDING F5A DELIVERIES SUGGESTS REVISAL OF FONMIN SUMMER 1974 "TOTAL PACKAGE - ALL OR NOTHING" TACTIC. WHILE RECOGNIZING ETHIOPIAN PROPENSITY FOR EXCESSIVE AND SELF-

CONFOUNDING "GAMESMANSHP," SEVERAL TRANSACTIONS ARE BEING JEOPARDIZED BY CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE FACTORS CONSTRAINING US RESPONSES. EVEN ASSUMING EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF ISSUES BY PROTRACTED HAGGLING, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT NET GAIN FOR EITHER PARTY WILL OUT-WEIGH ACRIMONY GENERATED. MOST CONTENTIOUS AND PERPLEXING OF THESE ISSUES ARE SUMMARIZED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE, WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND TWO/THREE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPECIALISTS TO ADDIS ABABA IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO ASSIST MISSION IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT BY AUGUST 22 OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES MENTIONED SEPTEL AND ANY OTHERS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN OUR EFFORTS TO PUT FUTURE TRANSACTION WITH EPMG ON MORE BUSINESSLIKE BASIS.

3. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED SEPTEL IN AN AIDE MEMORIE TO PMG IN ORDER TO PUT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION ON RECORD. SISCO

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